

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

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| To: MICHAEL R. CASEY OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 | RECEIVED 2/10/04 OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. DOCKETING DEPT. Int'l/s/Date Docketed: 1/21/04 |
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PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

220460WO 6

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

| International application No. | International filing date (day/month/year) | Priority date (day/month/year) |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| PCT/US03/06710 | 17 March 2003 (17.03.2003) | 20 March 2002 (20.03.2002) |

Applicant

TOKYO ELECTRON LIMITED

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.
4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices)(Article 39(1))(see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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| Applicant's or agent's file reference 220460WO | FOR FURTHER ACTION | See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416) |
| International application No. PCT/US03/06710 | International filing date (day/month/year) 17 March 2003 (17.03.2003) | Priority date (day/month/year) 20 March 2002 (20.03.2002) |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): G01N 21/35 and US Cl.: 250/343, 341.4, 339.08, 339.11, 339.12, | | |
| Applicant TOKYO ELECTRON LIMITED | | |

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 0 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

| | |
|--|--|
| Date of submission of the demand 06 August 2003 (06.08.2003) | Date of completion of this report 05 November 2003 (05.11.2003) |
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703)305-3230 | Authorized officer <i>JM</i> Albert J. Gagliardi <i>James R. Matthews</i> Telephone No. (703)308-0956 |

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/067

I. Basis of the report**1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*** the international application as originally filed. the description:pages 1-14 as originally filedpages NONE, filed with the demandpages NONE, filed with the letter of _____. the claims:pages 15-23, as originally filedpages NONE, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19pages NONE, filed with the demandpages NONE, filed with the letter of _____. the drawings:pages 1-6, as originally filedpages NONE, filed with the demandpages NONE, filed with the letter of _____. the sequence listing part of the description:pages NONE, as originally filedpages NONE, filed with the demandpages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.**2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.**

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).**3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:** contained in the international application in printed form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.**4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:** the description, pages NONE the claims, Nos. NONE the drawings, sheets/fig NONE**5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).****

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International Application No.
PCT/US03/06**V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. STATEMENT**

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-----|
| Novelty (N) | Claims 1-37 | YES |
| | Claims NONE | NO |
| Inventive Step (IS) | Claims 1-37 | YES |
| | Claims NONE | NO |
| Industrial Applicability (IA) | Claims 1-37 | YES |
| | Claims NONE | NO |

2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Claims 1-37 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest an apparatus for detecting light absorption by gaseous species in a processing chamber comprising at least an infrared source and sensor and first and second optical assemblies for transmitting the light into the chamber and receiving light passing through the chamber, respectively. The examiner notes that while it is known in the prior art to measure gas absorption of gaseous species related to a processing chamber operation (McAndrew et al. -- US 5,880,850, for example), the prior art is arranged to measure the light absorption by the gaseous species in the effluent steam of the processing chamber (i.e., outside the processing chamber). It is also noted that in other prior art optical measuring apparatus (Quick -- US 5,793,042 and Solomon et al. -- US 5,900,633, the apparatus are not configured to measure the light from gaseous species within the chamber, but are configured to measure the light absorption of objects being processed in the processing chamber.

Claims 1-37 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), and thus have industrial applicability because the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.